एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जायेगी ।

Incident of earth fall on Jhuggis in Sameypur Badli, Delhi

1504. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of persons have been buried alive and many injured as a huge mound of earth fall on a cluster of jhuggis at Sameypur Badli in Delhi on the 30th March, 1990;

(b) if so, the details of the persons injured and killed due to fall of huge mound of earth;

(c) the details of compensation paid by the Government to the victims; and

(d) what further steps Government propose to take to provide relief to the affected persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) and (b) 10 persons were killed and 9 persons injured when a huge mound caved in over jhuggis in Suraj Park in the area of Police Station Sameypur Badli on the night on 31st March, 1990 (not on 30th March, 1990). The age of the persons who died varied from 2 months to 40 years and of the injured persons from 6 months to 30 years.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 20,000/- for the death of an adult, Rs. 10,000 for death of a minor, Rs. 3,000/- for the seriously injured and Rs. 500/- for those with minor injuries has been sanctioned as ex-gratia relief.

Economy in postal services

1505. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider ways and means of inducing economy in the postal services;

(b) whether it is a fact that the available option of annual price increases of postal articles has taken away the icentive of trying to economise and obtain better results;

(c) whether Government would consider setting up a task force to suggest reduction of waste and duplication etc. in the postal service; and

(d) if not, the steps to be taken in reducing wastage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Effecting economy in the Postal Service is a continuous exercise. Since 80% of the expenditure of the Postal services is on staff and establishment, stress is laid on tightening of standards and norms for sanction of staff through the Internal Work Study Unit of the Department and the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance. Rationalisation of deliveries without decreasing efficiency, selective mechanisation and computerisation of operations etc. are other measures which are adopted for the purpose of economy.

(b) Revision of the rates of various postal services is not resorted to as a routine and regular measure. For instance, the price of the Post Card has not been revised since 1974. Since the staff costs from a major part of the expenditure of the Department of Posts, revision of salary scales as a result of the Pay Commission and the normal increase in the Dearness Allowance of about Rs. 60 crores per annum necessitate adjustment of the Postal rates keeping in view the need to maintain the service at the least possible cost.